

[Decomposition of polyester]

Abstract

A process to decompose polyester by heating in the presence of a cyclic ester solvent is disclosed. Physically separated polyester-rich waste can be recycled by forming an admixture with a cyclic ester solvent, preferably propylene carbonate, and heating the admixture to a temperature above about 215 degrees Celsius. The polyester is decomposed into monomers and oligomers which are soluble in ethylene carbonate or propylene carbonate at ambient temperature. The polyester decomposition products are useful as components of an industrial solvent or as inputs to other chemical processes.